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**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

9 November 1957

Dear Neil:

Thank you for the useful information <sup>on the Philippine elections</sup> forwarded by your <sup>friends</sup> letter of 7 November 1957.

At this point three days before the elections the one thing which continues to be certain is that predicting the results of these Philippine elections is, as is frequently the case, a difficult if not dangerous business. However, there is still a general belief that Garcia is maintaining an edge over his opponents although both Yulo and Manahan appear to be gaining and narrowing Garcia's expected margin. There are some indications that terrorism, fraud and intimidation should be expected on election day despite Garcia's public pledge to ensure the cleanest, freest and most orderly elections.

Perhaps the question which looms largest, assuming free elections, is the extent to which Manahan, the Progressive Party presidential candidate, will translate into votes the spontaneous popularity which clearly appears to have developed for him. This raises the long-shot possibility of a voter's upset in favor of Manahan.

In terms of more immediate U.S. interests there appears to be a fairly good chance that Laurel, Jr. will be defeated in his bid for the vice presidency and Recto does not seem to have any chance of gaining the presidency.

Sincerely,

Allen W. Dulles  
Director

Honorable Neil H. McElroy  
Secretary of Defense  
Department of Defense

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